GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4017
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
ABOLITION OF CGHS SCHEMES
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its Mid-term Appraisal has recommended the abolition of the CGHS Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the alternative Health Scheme recommended by the Planning Commission for the Central Government employees ; and

(d) the time by when the alternative Health Scheme would be implemented ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(d): The Planning Commission has completed a Mid-Term Appraisal(MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan in respect of the major sectors of the Government. The Chapter on Health has drawn attention to several reports commissioned by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These have reported on the low satisfaction levels with the CGHS particularly with reference to poor emergency services, non-availability of medicines and inconvenient timings. The MTA further suggests that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare could consider several options for reform of the Central Government Health Scheme. Any measure to address the shortcomings of the scheme must necessarily address the question of optimal utilisation of this infrastructure.

The MTA suggests that current and new CGHS subscribers may be given the option to shift to a system of Health insurance through which they may access the CGHS or other clinical healthcare providers (the public sector hospital networks of the Ministry of Railways, and of the Employees State Insurance Corporation could be included, together with other categories of providers deemed fit). The existing subscribers of the CGHS could exercise an option of continuing with the existing arrangement or alternatively, subscribing to a new system developed within the CGHS. The remaining two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan may be used by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to develop these options further, confer greater autonomy to CGHS in preparation of the new role and convert it into an appropriate organisational form like a registered society.

The MTA is recommendatory in nature and any reform to the CGHS will be brought about after appropriate consideration and stakeholder consultation by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.